WEIRD VAMPIRE TALES

AUG 1981 $2.50

BEWARE THE EDGE OF DARKNESS WHERE THE

BLOODSUCKING VAMPIRE STRIKES!

SHOCKING HORROR EXPLODES IN

SATAN'S WARLOCK

ANCIENT RITES COME ALIVE TODAY

GIVE ME BACK MY BRAIN!

VAMPIRE'S BRIDE • FANGED TERROR

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WEIRD VAMPIRE TALES

AUGUST 1981
VOL. 5 No. 2

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VAMPIRE

A SINISTER FIGURE STALKING THE EERIE NIGHT... A TERRIFIED SCREAM TEARS FROM A HUMAN THROAT AS GLEAMING FANGS BITE INTO SOFT WHITE FLESH. AND THEN... SILENCE... GRAVEYARD SILENCE! THERE IS ONLY THE MOURNFUL WIND CRYING OVER THE BLOODLESS BODY LYING IN GHOSTLY SHADOWS WHICH HIDES THE CHILLING...

VAMPIRE

NO! NO! DON'T! I'LL NEVER REVEAL YOUR SECRET! DON'T... OHHHH!

BUT WHEN POLICE AND CORONER ARRIVED... ALL WAS STILL, AS STILL AND WITHERED AND LIFE-LESS BODY SO WANTONLY ATTACKED.

HE'S DEAD ALL RIGHT! LOOKS LIKE HE FELL OVER HIS LANTERN, CUT HIMSELF AND BLED TO DEATH!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THESE THINGS THAT LOOK LIKE TEETH-MARKS, DOC? SEEMS TO ME I READ...

YEAH, I KNOW, "DRACULA"! I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME MY BUSINESS AND THAT A CREATURE OF DARKNESS DID THIS. THERE IS NO SUCH THING.

AW, I KNOW THAT, DOC! I WAS ONLY THINKING...

THE ONLY TROUBLE WAS THAT DETECTIVE ROONEY DIDN'T THINK LONG OR FAR ENOUGH! FOR JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, A SINISTER FIGURE STANDS LISTENING...
FOOL OF A DOCTOR... SO HE DOESN'T BELIEVE...

THE NEXT DAY, DR. JIM DREXEL, THE YOUNG SCIENTIST READ THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES...
WHY... THIS IS TERRIBLE! THE OLD GRAVE-KEEPER KILLED! I'LL HAVE TO ASK ROONEY ABOUT THAT, SINCE HE'S ON THE CASE... OH... DR. MARSAK... I'M SORRY!

JIM... GET YOUR EYES OFF THAT PAPER! MEET MISS KATHY CORBIN
OH! GLAD TO MEET YOU, KATHY! I'M READING ABOUT THIS ACCIDENT LAST NIGHT, DOCTOR! IN THE CEMETERY... NEAR YOUR TOMB!

TOMB? YOUR TOMB, DOCTOR?
YES, MY DEAR! I HAVE A PET THEORY THAT AFTER A CERTAIN AGE, ONE SHOULD PREPARE FOR DEATH! SO SINCE I HAVE A WORTHY SUCCESSOR IN DR. DREXEL, WHY SHOULD I NOT DEVOTE MYSELF TO PREPARING FOR THE HEREAFTER?

WHEN DR. MARSAK LEAVES...
THAT POOR GRAVE-TENDER COULDN'T PREPARE FOR DEATH! IT MUST HAVE BEEN GHASTLY! I'M GLAD, THOUGH DR. MARSAK DIDN'T READ ABOUT VAMPIRES DOING IT (AS ROONEY SUGGESTED)! I'LL TELL HIM LATER... WHEN THERE'S MORE TIME!
DOES DR. MARSAK BELIEVE IN THOSE FOOLISH TALES?

HEAVENS NO! IN HIS YOUTH HE WAS BANISHED FROM HIS OWN VILLAGE IN EUROPE, BECAUSE HE TRIED TO HELP THE PEASANTS CONQUER THEIR SUPERSTITIONS!
I DON'T THINK I REMEMBER THAT... TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT IT, JIM... BEFORE DR. MARSAK GETS BACK!

"MARSAK," JIM TELLS KATHY, "KNEW EVEN THEN THAT SCIENCE WOULD NOT ADMIT THE EXISTENCE OF GHOULS OF DEATH. BUT TO THE VILLAGERS THEY WERE REAL..."
I FEEL FOR THE SAFETY OF KLAUS, THE PEDDLER! HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW!
I HOPE HE DOES NOT TRAVEL BY NIGHT! THE VAMPIRES...

SUCH NONSENSE! THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS! WHY DO YOU NOT FIND OUT?
HA! LISTEN TO THE YOUNG DOCTOR TO-BE MARSAK TALK! IF HE IS SO BRAVE, LET HIM MEET KLAUS AND COME HERE WITH HIM!

"SEIZING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE VILLAGER'S FEARS AT REST, MARSAK WENT OUT ALONE TO FIND KLAUS! IT WAS A DARK, WILD NIGHT!"
FOOLS! I SHALL SHOW THEM! KLAUS MUST COME ALONG THIS TRAIL! AH, IS THAT THE SOUND OF HIS MULES' HOOVES I HEAR OVER THIS WILD WIND?

"SUDDENLY, A WILD, BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM RANG OUT IN THE DISTANCE."
KLAUS! WHAT HAPPENED?

"AS MARSAK BENT OVER TO AID THE STRICKEN MAN SOMETHING ENVELOPED HIM..."

"...AND EVERYTHING WENT BLACK! IN THE MORNING THE VILLAGERS FOUND THEM... KLAUS WAS DEAD, STIFF AND COLD! MARSAK WAS BARELY ALIVE!"
THE VAMPIRE! WE TOLD YOU. YOU YOUNG FOOL!
NONSENSE! THE MULE WAS FRIGHTENED! HIS HOOF MUST HAVE STRUCK ME!

AND WAS DR. MARSAK RIGHT?
OF COURSE! HE SWORE HE'D TRACK DOWN THE SUPERSTITION! HE BECAME AN EXPERT ON WITCHCRAFT, BUT THE DEATHS CONTINUED UNTIL FINALLY DR. MARSAK WAS HOOTED OUT OF HIS OWN VILLAGE! OH, SORRY, DOCTOR!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, JIM! KATHY SHOULD KNOW! YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN VAMPIRES, KATHY?
NOT ME!
BUT YOU COULDN'T CONVINCE DETECTIVE ROONEY! THAT WAS A FUNNY TOUCH IN THE TRAGIC STORY OF THE GRAVE-KEEPER'S DEATH! ROONEY LIVES AT MY BOARDING-HOUSE, KATHY!

WELL, I SUPPOSE EACH TO HIS OWN BELIEF! I'VE GOT TO TAKE KATHY TO MY LAB NOW, JIM! YOU CAN HAVE HER LATER!

KATHY WAS VERY HAPPY IN HER JOB. FROM MARSAK SHE LEARNED MANY OF SCIENCE'S MYSTERIES... ONE DAY...
OH! THE TEST TUBE SLIPPED! I'VE CUT MYSELF!
THAT'S A DANGEROUS CHEMICAL!

DR. MARSAK TAKES KATHY'S FINGER BETWEEN HIS LIPS...
DOCTOR... WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I HOPE I DIDN'T FRIGHTEN YOU, CHILD! I HAD TO GET THAT BLOOD OUT! THAT CHEMICAL MIGHT HAVE KILLED YOU!
YOU DID FRIGHTEN ME... BUT THANK YOU!

THAT EVENING, DINING AT THE BOARDING-HOUSE WHERE THEY BOTH LIVE, KATHY TELLS JIM OF HER NEAR TRAGEDY...

I'M GLAD DR. MARSAK WAS THERE TO HELP! FEEL RIGHT ENOUGH FOR A MOVIE TONIGHT?

NO... I... GUESS I'M HAVING A LITTLE POST-ACCIDENT SHOCK! I'D BETTER GET TO BED EARLY JIM! MAYBE SOME OTHER NIGHT...

AND SO KATHY WENT TO BED EARLY, CONFIDENT THAT IN THE MORNING SHE'D FEEL BETTER! ENGROSSED IN HER BOOK, SHE DOESN'T SEE THE STRANGE FIGURE AT HER WINDOW...

ODD THAT I SHOULD FEEL SO WEAK!

SUDDENLY, THE WINDOW OPENS NOISELESSLY AND INTO THE ROOM COMES A CREATURE OF THE PITS! IT LEAPS, CUTTING KATHY'S SCREAM SHORT...

BUT JIM HEARD KATHY'S TERRIFIED CRY FOR HELP!

QUICK, ROONEY! KATHY... KATHY...

BUT I TELL YOU JIM, I SAW SOMETHING LIKE A GIANT BAT!

NOW... NOW... BE QUIET! YOU MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP AND KNOCKED OVER THE LAMP! YOU CUT YOURSELF... THESE NICKS...

THE DOCTOR'S RIGHT, MISS KATHY! I'VE HAD NIGHT-MARES MYSELF! I KNOW! BETTER GIVE HER A SEDATIVE, DOC! THEN I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

AFTER GIVING KATHY A SEDATIVE, JIM DECIDES TO STAY BY HER...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ROONEY?

LOOK AT THIS! THE SAME MARKS WERE ON THAT DEAD GRAVE-KEEPER! BUT I JUST CHECKED OUTSIDE AND THERE AIN'T A FOOTPRINT!

JUST A COINCIDENCE, ROONEY GLASS CUTS! SAY, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE OFF ON THAT VAMPIPE ROUTINE AGAIN! GO ON TO BED! I'LL SIT UP WITH KATHY!
JUST THE SAME, I'LL BET IT AIN'T ALL FICTION! THERE MUST BE SOME TRUTH IN IT! OKAY, GOOD NIGHT! BUT I'M LOOKING AROUND AGAIN!

AS JIM KEEPS HIS VIGIL, HE DOZES... JUST A CATNAP! KATHY OPENS HER EYES AND SEES JIM ... BUT SUDDENLY, FROM A DISTANCE, A SOFT, INSINUATING VOICE CALLS...
KATHY... KATHY... YOU WILL DO AS I BID YOU ... AND THEN COME TO ME, MY LOVE ...

IN A TRANCE-LIKE STATE, KATHY DOES AS SHE IS BIDDEN! HER SOFT-WHITE ARMS ENFOLD JIM AND THE NEXT INSTANT, SHARP WHITE TEETH KNIFE HIS NECK...
KATHY...! I... I...

AS HIS BODY WEAKENS STRANGELY, JIM SUMMONS ALL HIS RESERVE STRENGTH! HE PUSHES KATHY AWAY... THEN THE ROOM REVOLVES DIZZILY...
COME... COME...
HELP! HELP!
WHAT'S GOING ON? JIM... MISS KATHY!

I HEARD THE COMMOTION! WHAT HAPPENED? HEY, WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT GIRL! IT'S SNOWING OUT! SHE MUST BE DELIRIOUS!
YES... YES... BUT ROONEY... LET'S FOLLOW HER! COME ON!

OBLIVIOUS OF THE SNOW AND BITING COLD, AS THOUGH ATTRACTED BY A MAGNETIC FORCE, KATHY GLIDES THROUGH THE NIGHT...
SHE'S GOING INTO THE CEMETERY! LOOK!
PUT THAT GUN AWAY, ROONEY! I'M AFRAID IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD... AGAINST WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING! THANK GOODNESS IT'S ALMOST DAWN! SEE THE SKY'S GETTING LIGHTER!

QUICKLY, JIM WRESTS A STAKE FROM A NEARBY DRIFT FENCE AND ORDERS ROONEY TO DO THE SAME... AS THE DOOR OPENS, AND KATHY VANISHES!!

HURRY, HURRY.. ROONEY! GET A STAKE!

I THINK YOU'RE CRAZY, TOO, DOC... SO I'LL DO IT! BUT, KATHY... LOOK SHE'S GOING INSIDE!

AS JIM AND DETECTIVE ROONEY ENTER THE TOMB, A GHASTLY SIGHT SENDS CHILLS OF HORROR UP AND DOWN THEIR SPINES!

DOC... **THEY'RE DEAD!** GLORY BE... I... I...

NO... NOT DEAD YET, ROONEY! NOT YET... BUT THEY'RE GOING TO BE!

HIS HEART HEAVY, BUT REALIZING WHAT MUST BE DONE, JIM DRIVES THE WOODEN SPIKE INTO MARSAR'S HEART! SUDDENLY, A CHILLING SCREAM ECHOES AND RE-ECHOES THROUGH THE TOMB...

GOOD-BYE, MARSAK, MY FRIEND! NOW MAY YOUR TORMENTED SOUL REST IN PEACE FOREVER!

DOC... DOC! THAT'S MURDER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY? WHY?

BUT THE SCREAM WHICH STRUCK SUCH TERROR INTO ROONEY'S HEART, WAS NOT TORN FROM THE DEVIL-POSSESSED DR. MARSAR, BUT FROM KATHY'S THROAT!

JIM... JIM... WHERE AM I?

KATHY... KATHY, DARLING! IT'S A MIRACLE YOU'RE FLESH AND BLOOD STILL... MY DARLING!

WILL SOMEBODY TELL THE LAW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

IT WAS WHILE I WAS DOZING IN KATHY'S ROOM THAT I THOUGHT OF MARSAR'S EXPERIENCE IN THE VILLAGE OF HIS YOUTH... I WAS THINKING OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF A VAMPIRE AND NOT A MULE HAD ATTACKED HIM! AND THEN SUDDENLY IT WAS CLEAR... **HIS FIRST AID TO KATHY'S FINGER!** HE COULDN'T HELP HIMSELF! TONIGHT HE ATTACKED KATHY AGAIN!

FORTUNATELY, WE STOPPED HIM IN TIME!

DON'T YOU SEE, ROONEY? THE GRAVEYARD KEEPER MUST HAVE DISCOVERED HIS SECRET! MARSAK SLEPT HERE AFTER EACH ATTACK! THEN HE WOULD COME TO THE LABORATORY!

A REAL GENUINE, VAMPIRE! IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

HOLD ME... OH, JIM!

BUT DO YOU THINK THEY'D BELIEVE ME AT HEAD-QUARTERS? THE CHIEF SAID MARSAR JUST WENT NUTS... AND WHO WAS I TRYING TO KID? BUT **YOU** BELIEVE ME.. DON'T YOU?

The End

SATAN'S WARLOCK

OVER THE LONG-DESERTED VILLAGE OF JERICHO NOTCH, THERE HUNG A DARK PALL OF EVIL! THE YELLOWED PAGES OF THE ORDINANCE OF THE DEVIL WAS STILL INTACT, BOUND IN LEATHER WAITING FOR THE RIGHT PERSON AND THE RIGHT TIME!

IT WAS NIGHT AND AN OLD SEDAN CRAWLED UP A MOUNTAIN ROAD!
THIS RAIN! I-I CAN HARDLY SEE THE ROAD AHEAD!
I'D BETTER STOP AND CHECK MY MAP IF I EXPECT TO FIND JERICHO NOTCH TONIGHT!
AH-- THERE'S A GAS STATION AHEAD! MAYBE SOMEONE CAN GIVE ME DIRECTIONS!!
PLACE IS DARK...MAYBE THEY ARE ASLEEP!
THUMP! THUMP!
FINE TIME OF NIGHT TO WAKE A MAN! WHAT D'YE WANT STRANGER?
I-I'M SORRY, BUT I'M LOOKING FOR JERICHO NOTCH! CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO FIND IT!
AT THESE WORDS, A STRANGE EXPRESSION FLITTED ACROSS THE MAN AT THE DOOR! HIS VOICE WAS HUSHED!
YOU WANT TO GO TO JERICHO NOTCH?
YES, I SAW AN AD IN A NEWSPAPER, SAYING THEY NEED A NEW SHOP TEACHER UP HERE! SO I DROVE UP AT ONCE!
STRANGER! YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN! NO ONE LIVES THERE! THE TOWN HAS BEEN DESERTED FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS!

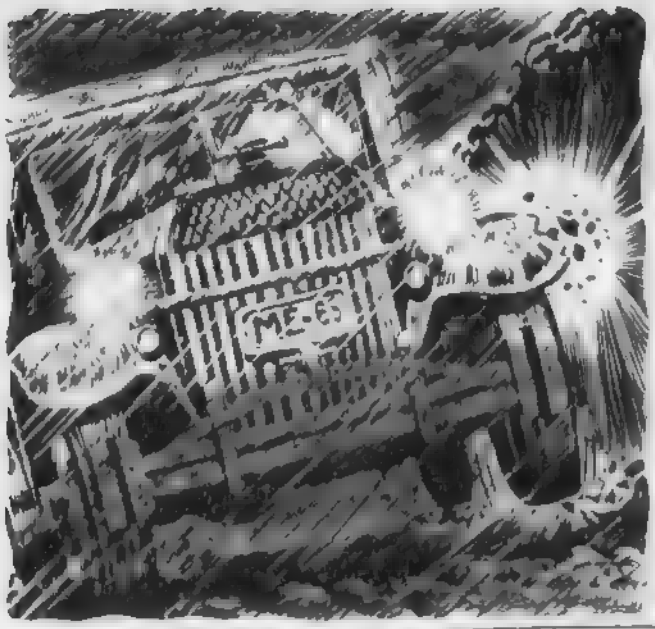
DESERTED? I-- I TELL YOU, I SAW AN ADVERTISE MENT...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A PRINTER'S ERROR! JERICHO NOTCH IS A GHOST VILLAGE!
I'M GOING UP THERE TO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF! NOW-- HOW DO I GET THERE?
ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU HOW TO FIND FIND IT! KEEP DRIVING ON THIS ROAD FOR ABOUT FIVE MILES!
YOU'LL COME TO ANOTHER CROSSROADS-- A SPOT WHERE THERE'S A HUGE OAK TREE WITH A SPIKE DRIVEN INTO IT! FOLKS CALL IT SPIKE'S CROSSROADS! GO LEFT THERE... AND YOU'LL BE IN JERICHO NOTCH!

AGAIN THE SCHOOLTEACHER GOT UNDER WAY -- THIS TIME WITH A STRANGE SENSE OF FORBODING! WHAT WOULD HE FIND IN JERICHO NOTCH?
...IT'S SILLY, WHO WOULD PLACE AN AD FOR A TEACHER IN A GHOST TOWN? I MUST BE GOING BALMY!

SUDDENLY, THE HEAVENS SHUDDERED WITH THE CRACKLING BOOM OF THUNDER! LIGHTNING!

THE SPIKE IN THE OAK TREE! THIS IS SPIKES CROSSROADS! I'VE GOT TO BEAR LEFT NOW!

WHAT TH--! THE ROAD'S SLIPPERY, AND THE CAR'S SKIDDING!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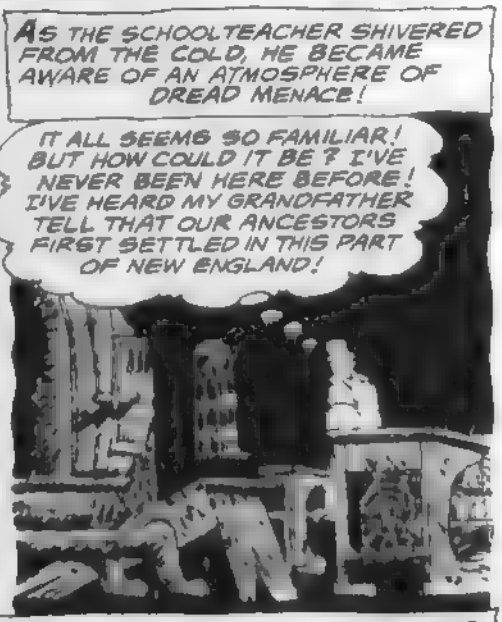
WHEW! LUCKY THE CAR WASN'T TOO BADLY DAMAGED! HMMM... LOOKS LIKE A HOUSE AHEAD-- MAYBE I CAN FIND SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT! I'LL TRY IT!

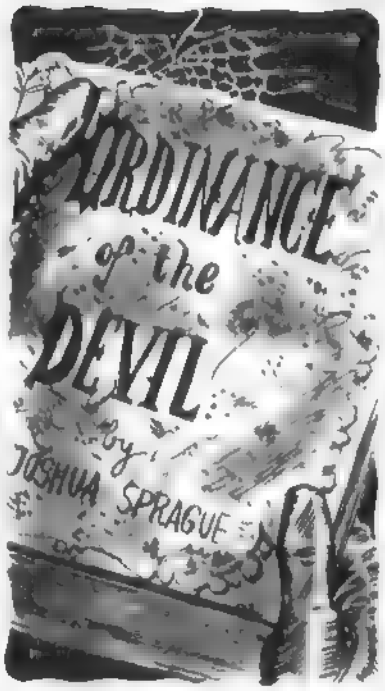
WHY, THIS MUST BE A SCHOOLHOUSE... THERE'S EVEN AN OLD IRON BELL WITH A MISSING CLAPPER... MOST UNUSUAL...


AS THE SCHOOLTEACHER SHIVERED FROM THE COLD, HE BECAME AWARE OF AN ATMOSPHERE OF DREAD MENACE!
IT ALL SEEMS SO FAMILIAR! BUT HOW COULD IT BE? I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE! I'VE HEARD MY GRANDFATHER TELL THAT OUR ANCESTORS FIRST SETTLED IN THIS PART OF NEW ENGLAND!

BUT THAT MUST HAVE BEEN TEN GENERATIONS AGO AND YET I HAVE THE FEELING THAT I KNOW THIS SCHOOLHOUSE-- THE FEELING THAT I WAS MEANT TO COME HERE!

AS HIS THOUGHTS EXPLORED THE IMPONDERABLE, THE TEACHER SHUDDERED FROM THE BITING COLD!
I'D BETTER GET A FIRE STARTED IN THIS STOVE! THE MATCHES SHOULD DO THE TRICK! LUCKY SOMEONE LEFT THEM HERE!

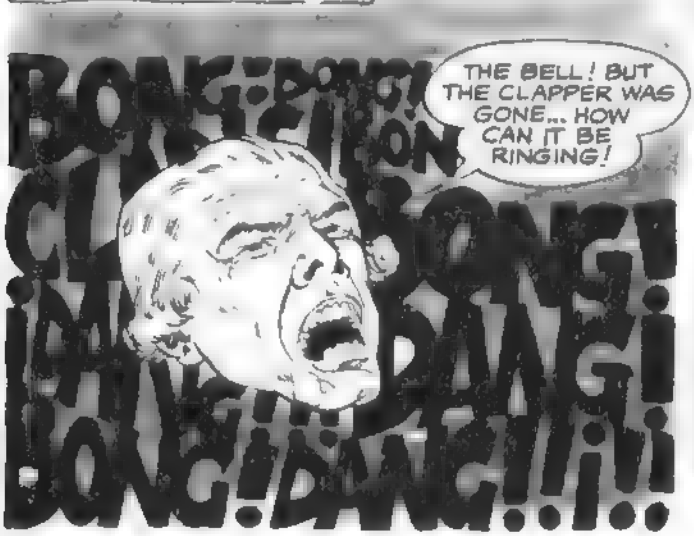
AS THE FLAMES FILLED THE ROOM WITH WARMTH, THE TEACHER PICKED UP A DUST-COVERED VOLUME LYING ON A SHELF!
HMMM! THIS LOOKS AS OLD AS THE SCHOOLHOUSE ITSELF! YELLOWED PARCHMENT! LET'S SEE WHAT IT'S ABOUT!


ORDINANCE of the DEVIL
by JOSHUA SPRAGUE

ORDINANCE OF THE DEVIL! WHAT A STRANGE TITLE! AND THE AUTHOR'S NAME! IT'S JOSHUA SPRAGUE! BUT THAT CAN'T BE! THAT'S--

AT THAT MOMENT... THERE WAS A SHATTERING ROAR-- AS OF THE STORED-UP THUNDER BLINDING LIGHT FLASHED THROUGH THE ROOM! THROWN OFF HIS FEET, THE TEACHER REELED FORWARD...

...AND LAY MOTIONLESS, THE ANCIENT BOOK STILL GRIPPED IN HIS HAND!


HOW LONG HE LAY THERE, HE COULD NOT SAY... OR WHETHER TIME WAS PASSING FORWARD OR BACKWARD! BUT THE NEXT THING HE HEARD WAS A STRANGE SOUND--
BONG! DONG! ON CLANG! BANG! BONG! DANG!!!
THE BELL! BUT THE CLAPPER WAS GONE... HOW CAN IT BE RINGING!

STRANGE! THE COBWEBS ARE GONE-- AND THE SCHOOLROOM IS NEW! AND MY CLOTHES! RUFFLES AND BUCKLED SHOES... AND THIS WIG! I'M DRESSED LIKE A SCHOOLTEACHER OF TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO!

CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!
STRANGE? IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! AND HERE COME THE STUDENTS TO SCHOOL!

GOOD MORROW, MASTER SPRAGUE WE HAVE COME TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT FURNITURE FOR OUR DWELLINGS!
AH..YES, OF COURSE, COME IN, ALL OF YOU!

AND THEN AS THE YOUNG MEN SAT, A POWERFUL IMPULSE DOMINATED THE TEACHER -- SEIZING HIM COMPLETELY! IT WAS THE IMPULSE TO CONTROL THEM, BODY AND SOUL!
HAVE YOU STUDIED YOUR TEXT FOR TODAY?
YEA, WE HAVE, MASTER SPRAGUE!

GOOD! THEN TELL ME--WHAT IS THE LESSON?
THE LESSON IS WHAT YOU HAVE TAUGHT US, MASTER SPRAGUE, THE ORDINANCE OF THE DEVIL!

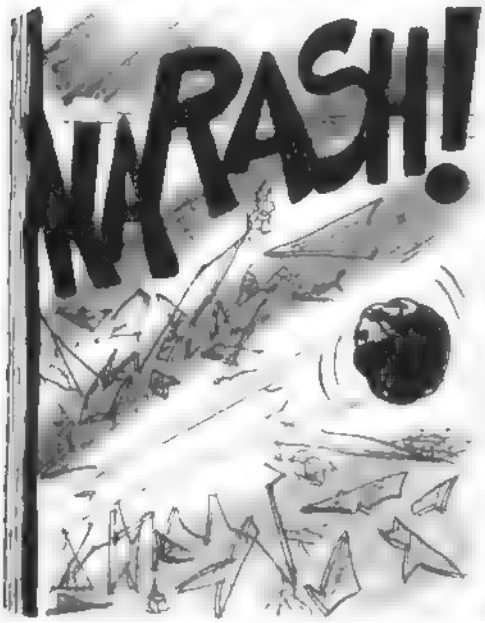
HA! YOU HAVE LEARNED WELL! WHO IS THE MASTER OF ALL THINGS HUMAN?

THE DEVIL IS OUR MASTER, SIR!
YES! HE RULES THE EARTH--
YES! AND WITCHES, HOBGOBLINS, BATS AND WERE WOLVES ARE HIS SERVANTS!
AND WE SERVE HIM, TOO, AS YOU HAVE TAUGHT US, MASTER SPRAGUE!

HA-HA-HA! YOU HAVE DONE BETTER THAN I THOUGHT! YES, WE ARE ALL SERVANTS OF THE EVIL ONE! NOW, CAN YOU PROVE YOU ALLEGIANCE?

AS YOU HAVE TAUGHT US, MASTER SPRAGUE! TO DO EVIL IN HIS NAME!

THERE! THERE! I SEE HIM! IT IS THE DEVIL AND A HOST OF EVIL ONES-- COME TO JOIN US!
EEEEE-- AAH! I SEE HIM, TOO! WELCOME, MASTER! WE ARE YOUR SLAVES! COMMAND US TO DO YOUR WILL! AIEEEEE!


WRASH!

AND OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLHOUSE!
DEVILSH SPRAGUE! EVIL ONE, IT IS NOT WOODWORKING YOU TEACH-- BUT THE WORD OF THE DEVIL!
LET'S GO IN THERE AND FETCH OUT THE WITCH, SPRAGUE!

SEIZE HIM!
WE'LL TEACH HIM A LESSON!
WE HAVE THE PROOF ON HIM-- HIS BOOK! GRAB HIM! DRAG HIM OUTSIDE!
YOU FOOLS! LET ME GO!
LET YOU GO? NOT UNTIL YOU'RE DEAD JOSHUA SPRAGUE!
AYE! BUT WILL THAT END HIS SORCERY?
IT WILL-- IF WE DO IT IN A CERTAIN WAY!
WE MUST DRIVE A SPIKE THROUGH HIS ACCURSED SKULL AND NAIL HIM TO AN OAK STANDING AT A CROSSROADS! THAT WILL CRUSH THE DEVIL IN HIS SOUL--FOR TEN GENERATIONS! IF ANY OF HIS CLAN RETURN HERE-- THEY WILL SUFFER THE SAME PUNISHMENT!
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, DOLTS? HERE'S THE OAK TREE!
AYE! AND HERE'S THE THE HAMMER... LET'S GET ON WITH IT!
DEATH WAS NOW ABOUT TO SEIZE JOSHUA SPRAGUE!

SAY YOUR PRAYERS, SPRAGUE -- IF YOU KNOW ANY FIT ONES!

NO! NO! SPARE ME! I BEG! I'LL NOT PRACTICE SORCERY AGAIN! I SWEAR IT!

ONCE AGAIN, RAIN SLANTED FIERCELY INTO THE SHINGLED ROOF OF THE SCHOOLHOUSE!

DAWN CAME, AND WITH IT THE RAIN CEASED! THROUGH THE FOREST WALKED TWO MEN!
WHEN THE OLD FELLOW DIDN'T SHOW UP AGAIN AT MY GAS STATION, I FIGURED HE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN LOST, SERGEANT! THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU!
WE'LL SOON SEE, FRED! THAT'S HIS CAR PARKED JUST OFF THE ROAD! AND HIS TRACKS LEAD UP TOWARD THE SCHOOLHOUSE!

THE FOOTPRINTS GO IN... BUT THEY DON'T COME OUT AGAIN! WE'D BETTER INVESTIGATE!

LOOK! A BODY -- LYING ACROSS THE ROOM! IT'S THE SCHOOLTEACHER, SARGE! HE'S DEAD!
HMMM! HE'S GOT A BIG SLIVER OF METAL RIGHT THROUGH HIS SKULL!
THINK IT WAS MURDER, SARGE?
I RECKON NOT! HE MADE THE MISTAKE OF BUILDING A BLAZING FIRE IN AN OLD STOVE THAT EXPLODED, AND DROVE THE IRON INTO HIS HEAD! JUST AN ACCIDENT!
WHAT'S THAT BOOK HE'S HOLDING?
OH, JUST SOME DUSTY OLD TEXTBOOK, I GUESS! HE'S HOLDING IT SO TIGHT, I CAN'T PRY IT LOOSE! S'POSE WE'LL HAVE TO LET HIM BE BURIED STILL HOLDING ONTO IT!
WE'D BETTER PHONE FOR A HEARSE, EH, SARGE?
LET'S IDENTIFY HIM FIRST, FRED!
HERE'S HIS WALLET, SARGE!
HMMM! HIS NAME WAS JOSHUA SPRAGUE! I'D BETTER WRITE THAT DOWN SO I DON'T FORGET IT! JOSHUA SPRAGUE!
SO IT WAS THAT JOSHUA SPRAGUE RETURNED TO THE SCENE WHERE HIS ANCESTOR HAD DIED, CENTURIES BEFORE! AND THERE HE SUFFERED THE SAME! PERHAPS THE ANSWER LIES WITHIN THE PAGES OF THE ANCIENT BOOK CLUTCHED IN THE TEACHER'S DEATH-STIFFENED FINGERS! BUT NO ONE WILL EVER READ THAT BOOK -- FOR IT WAS BURIED WITH JOSHUA SPRAGUE!
THE END
MARCHIONNE

VAMPIRES BRIDE

WHEN CHRIS LEFT, A STRANGE FEELING CAME OVER NADYA SUDDENLY...
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME? SOME STRANGE POWER IS COMING OVER ME! THE VAMPIRE CURSE! COULD IT BE? NO! NO!
AS THE CLOCK STRUCK MIDNIGHT ON HER TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY, NADYA WAS DRAWN TO THE LIBRARY LIKE SOMEONE POSSESSED!
THE BATS! THEY ARE COMING ALIVE! NO! RELINQUISH YOUR HOLD ON ME, YOU THINGS OF EVIL!
THEN, A SUDDEN TRANSFORMATION...
SO, IT IS TRUE! I SHARE A COMMON HERITAGE WITH THESE FOUL OMENS OF DEATH! OH, CHRIS-- WHAT WILL BECOME OF OUR LOVE?
THAT NIGHT, NADYA THIRSTING FOR BLOOD, PROWLED THE COUNTRYSIDE...
I'LL CUT ACROSS MY FIELDS, DUSAN! TOMORROW I MUST BE UP EARLY TO HARVEST MY GRAIN!
AY! YOU ARE MUCH TOO ANXIOUS TO BE A RICH MAN! GOOD NIGHT!
BUT THE ILL FATED MAN WAS DESTINED NEVER TO HARVEST AGAIN!
AT LAST! MY BEING QUIVERS WITH THIRST! MY PETS, YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR WAY.
AAGH!

THE NEXT DAY, NEWS OF THE BRUTAL KILLING SPREAD THROUGH THE VILLAGE.
I AM GIVING NOTICE, MISTRESS! I WANT TO RETURN TO MY OWN VILLAGE! NO ONE IS SAFE WITH A VAMPIRE LOOSE!
NONSENSE! THAT'S JUST A FOOLISH SUPERSTITION! A MAN HAS BEEN MURDERED! THAT'S ALL!
NADYA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
OF COURSE, CHRIS! WHAT IS ALL THIS UPROAR ABOUT?
CHRIS, LET'S LEAVE FOR FRANCE AT ONCE!
THERE'S A DANUBE BOAT LEAVING AT ONCE! WE CAN BE MARRIED BY THE CAPTAIN, DARLING! PACK AND BE READY TONIGHT!
THE VILLAGE IS ARMING TO TRACK DOWN THE VAMPIRE! SOME ANCIENT CURSE HAS COME ALIVE AGAIN!
SURELY YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS LEGEND, CHRIS!
I MUST FLEE! SOME OLD CRONE IS SURE TO REMEMBER THE CURSE THAT IS ON MY FAMILY!
THAT NIGHT..
I'M MARRIED TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN HUNGARY, DARLING!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HUNGARY ANY MORE, CHRISTY! I'VE LEFT THE PAST BEHIND ME! MY FUTURE DESTINY LIES IN FRANCE NOW!
NADYA WAS DETERMINED TO LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND HER...
THERE, STAY WITH MY ANCESTORS! I HAVE PAID MY DEBT TO MY HERITAGE! NOW I SHALL BUILD A NEW LIFE WITH CHRIS! NO MORE SHALL THESE BATS LURE ME INTO FOUL DEEDS!

BUT IF NADYA HAD LOOKED BACK, SHE WOULD HAVE SEEN HER DESTINY FOLLOWING IN THE WAKE OF THE SHIP...
BY THE WAY, DARLING! I HOPE YOU DIDN'T PACK THOSE HORRIBLE STATUES!
NO! I KNEW HOW YOU DISLIKED THEM, SO I LEFT THEM BEHIND!
CUSTOM OFFICE
LATER, AT CHRIS'S HOME IN PARIS...
I LOVE YOUR HOME, CHRIS! I'VE UNPACKED COMPLETELY AND REARRANGED THE LIVING ROOM!
I WANT IT JUST THE WAY YOU DO, DARLING!
BUT THERE WAS AN UNWELCOME ADDITION TO THE LIVING ROOM. THE VAMPIRE BATS HAD COME HOME...
I THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT THOSE EVIL LOOKING STATUES BEHIND!
AIEEE! THEY HAVE PURSUED ME!
OH, THE MANSERVANT MUST HAVE PACKED THEM AGAINST MY INSTRUCTIONS!
BUT NADYA RECKONED WITHOUT THE POWER OF THE FOUL CREATURES WHO HELD HER SOUL CAPTIVE THAT NIGHT...
AIEEE! THEY'VE COME FOR ME! I-I CANNOT RESIST THEM!
A MONTH PASSED HAPPILY. NADYA BEGAN TO HOPE THAT THE BATS WERE IMMOBILIZED FOREVER. BUT THERE WAS A GROWING RESTLESSNESS IN HER AS THE MOON MOVED TO A PREDESTINED POSITION...
WHATA WONDERFUL MOONLIT NIGHT, NADYA! WHY SO SILENT?
IT'S NOTHING, DARLING!
I FEEL THIS STRANGE CRAVING TO PROWL WITH MY KINSMEN! IF I LOVE CHRIS I MUSTN'T GIVE IN! I MUSTN'T!

THE BLOODLUST WAS ON NADYA! URGED EVER ON BY THE UNSPEAKABLE THINGS OF EVIL, SHE PROWLED THE STREETS OF PARIS FOR A VICTIM TO SATE THEIR DESIRE...
ENJOY THE FUN, MY PETS! HE ALMOST DIES OF FRIGHT!
AARGH!
MERCY! THAT HIDEOUS CREATURE!
A VAMPIRE!
A HUE AND CRY WAS RAISED THROUGHOUT PARIS WHEN, IN THE DAWN THE BLOODLESS CORPSE WAS FOUND!
BY THE WAY, LEFEVRE I HAVEN'T HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOUR WIFE!
BUT OF COURSE! COME HOME WITH ME TONIGHT FOR DINNER!
THAT NIGHT...
IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO COME FOR DINNER!
MY PLEASURE MADAME! I WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO MEET YOU!
THIS IS THE MOST HEINOUS CRIME I'VE EVER SEEN, LEFEVRE! IF I WERE SUPERSTITIOUS, I WOULD ALMOST BELIEVE THE GIRL...
I SAW SUCH A CRIME... IN HUNGARY THIS SUMMER WHEN I WAS COURTING!

WHERE YOU COME FROM THERE ARE MANY STORIES ABOUT VAMPIRES. TELL US ABOUT THEM!
JUST SILLY LEGENDS, MONSIEUR! ONLY THE PEASANTS BELIEVE THEM!
HE LOOKS AT ME SO STRANGELY! CAN HE POSSIBLY SUSPECT?
EH? THESE ARE CERTAINLY AN ODD PAIR!
HE DOES SUSPECT! HE MUST DIE! CHRIS MUST NEVER KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT ME! HE WOULD HATE ME -- I COULD NOT ENDURE THAT!
EVIL MUST BE FOLLOWED BY EVIL TO SURVIVE! THAT NIGHT, AS CHIEF OF POLICE BLANC SAT IN HIS LIBRARY...
THIS BOOK CONTAINS THE HISTORY OF HUNGARY'S VAMPIRES! IT'S ONLY A HUNCH, BUT THAT GIRL -- THOSE BATS! I'M AFRAID EVIL LURKS IN LEFEVRE'S HOUSE!
YOU NEED CHECK NO FURTHER, MONSIEUR!
YOU! VAMPIRE!
YOUR SUSPICION WAS JUSTIFIED! YOU HAVE SOLVED YOUR CASE, BUT YOU WON'T LIVE TO REVEAL MY SECRET!
WHEN SHE RETURNED THAT NIGHT, NADYA KEPT HER TALISMEN IN HER ROOM, LEST SOMEONE ELSE SUSPECT HER FEARFUL SECRET...
TONIGHT YOU SEEM MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER, DARLING! BUT I FEEL AS IF THOSE CREATURES STARE AT ME WHENEVER I KISS YOU!
DON'T BE SILLY, DARLING, THEY'RE ONLY STATUES!
FOUL THING OF THE NIGHT! UGH!
WE WILL DRINK DEEP, KINSMEN! WE WILL BE RENEWED WITH THE BLOOD OF THIS ENEMY!

HORROR SPREAD THROUGH PARIS WITH THE NEWS OF THE CELEBRATED DETECTIVES MURDER. PEOPLE BARRED THEIR DOORS AT NIGHT, AFRAID TO GIVE ENTRANCE TO ANYONE. MEMBERS OF THE GUARD PATROLLED THE STREETS SEEKING THE VAMPIRE. NADYA GREW RESTLESS AS THE FULL MOON SHONE OVER THE CITY. THEN...
LA LA LA, TRES JOLIE!
NOW, WHILE HIS SENSES ARE DRUGGED, I'LL QUENCH MY BURNING THIRST!
YIEEEE! HELP!
THE BEAST THERE IT IS!
DRIVEN OFF BY THE SHINING STEEL, NADYA FLED.
IT WENT THAT WAY!
SPREAD OUT AND SEARCH! KEEP YOUR BAYONETS DRAWN IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES! THE THING THIRSTS FOR BLOOD!
NADYA THOUGHT SHE WAS SAFE ONCE SHE GAINED THE SECURITY OF HER ROOM, BUT STILL THE BLOOD LUST BOILED WITHIN HER!
I GROW WEAK! AND MY PETS ARE DYING! I MUST BE RENEWED BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS OVER!
THE VICIOUS BATS DREW NADYA TO THE CHAMBER WHERE UNSUSPECTING CHRIS WAS SLEEPING...
NO! MY CRAVING MUST BE SATISFIED ELSEWHERE! EVEN THROUGH MY LOATHSOME CORRUPTION YOUR LOVE TOUCHES ME! BUT I MUST HAVE BLOOD! THE MANSERVANT!

WHO IS IT?
YOUR MISTRESS! OPEN UP! I HAVE A TASK FOR YOU TO PERFORM AT ONCE!
A SUDDEN ELECTRIC STORM AWAKENED CHRIS THINKING IT MIGHT FRIGHTEN NADYA, CHRIS WENT TO HER ROOM...
NADYA? THAT'S STRANGE! THE BATS ARE GONE TOO!
CHRIS HURRIED DOWN THE HALL IN TIME TO SEE...
THE VAMPIRE!
AARGH!
THE LOATHSOME BATS URGED NADYA ON TO KILL HER BELOVED...
OH, EVIL ONES, I CANNOT! RATHER WOULD I BE DESTROYED THAN HURT THE ONE I LOVE!
NADYA! YOU! I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE!
ANGERED BY NADYA'S REFUSAL, THE HUNGRY BATS ATTACKED!
I'M DONE FOR, UNLESS... THIS SWORD!
AS THE BATS FELL IN DEATH, THEIR SPELL OVER NADYA WAS BROKEN!
THINGS OF EVIL! NO MORE SHALL YOU DESTROY, BUT BE DESTROYED!
TOGETHER WITH MY EVIL OMENS, I DIE!
GOOD-BYE, MY DARLING! TRY TO FORGIVE ME FOR TRYING TO ACHIEVE HAPPINESS! REMEMBER THAT I LOVED YOU.
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE BRIEF MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS WE SPENT TOGETHER!
The END

POOL OF HORROR

A SPARKLING POOL... WHITE COTTAGES... ALL THE TRAPPINGS OF A PLEASANT SUMMER RESORT! YET WHAT IS THE UNSPEAKABLE EVIL THAT TRANSFORMED THIS PEACEFUL SCENE INTO HORROR...

A SHORT WALK TO THE COLONY-- AND THE THREE ARE SUDDENLY CONFRONTED BY FACES PALE WITH EYES SHINING WITH A FLAME OF EVIL!...

YOU HAVE A FAR WALK TO THE NEXT STATION -- WHY NOT SPEND THE NIGHT WITH US? WE CAN MAKE YOU COMFORTABLE!

TH-THANKS! IT SEEMS WE HAVE NO CHOICE!

PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE FOR A SWIM BEFORE SUPPER!

FINE! THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEED!

I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE! DID YOU SEE THE LOOKS IN THEIR EYES...

NONSENSE, JIM! THEY'RE GOOD-HEARTED PEOPLE!

AS MARY'S FATHER PREPARES TO LEAP INTO THE POOL, THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONY GATHER ABOUT SMILING...

HAVE A GOOD SWIM!!

THERE'S SOMETHING EVIL IN THE AIR!! I CAN FEEL IT!

COME ON IN! THE WATER IS FINE!

FATHER!! BEHIND YOU!! THERE'S SOMETHING-- SOMETHING HORRIBLE--!

AARGHH!!

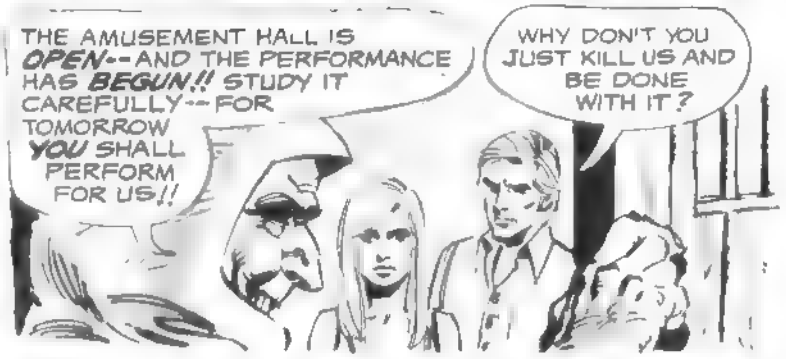
NO! NO!

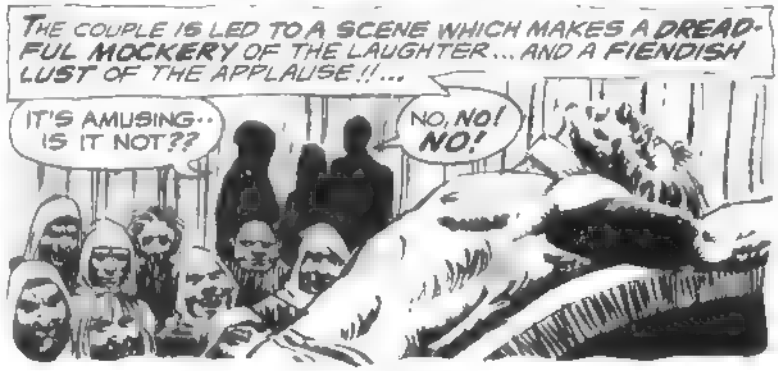
FEED WELL, MY PRETTY ONE! FEED WELL!!

MY FATHER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY FATHER??
WHAT MONSTROUS PLACE IS THIS?? WHO ARE YOU??
IT IS TIME YOU KNEW THE TRUTH!!

WE ARE PEOPLE OF DARKNESS-- AND THIS IS WHERE WE SPEND OUR SUMMERS FOR SPORT... AND ENTERTAINMENT... AS YOU SHALL DISCOVER!!

LATER...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?
SHH! I THINK I HEAR ONE OF THEM COMING!


THE AMUSEMENT HALL IS OPEN-- AND THE PERFORMANCE HAS BEGUN!! STUDY IT CAREFULLY-- FOR TOMORROW YOU SHALL PERFORM FOR US!!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST KILL US AND BE DONE WITH IT?


THE COUPLE IS LED TO A SCENE WHICH MAKES A DREADFUL MOCKERY OF THE LAUGHTER... AND A FIENDISH LUST OF THE APPLAUSE!!...
IT'S AMUSING-- IS IT NOT??
NO, NO! NO!

COME! COME!! WHY DO YOU SHRINK FROM IT'S LOVING EMBRACE??
LET ME GO!! LET ME GO!!!
ONE BY ONE THE PERFORMERS ARE BROUGHT ONTO THE STAGE -- TO DO THEIR BIT FOR THE PLEASURE OF THE BLOOD-MAD SPECTATORS...
GRRRGGH!
ENCORE! ENCORE!
STOP!! STOP!! YAAH-H!
MORE! MORE!

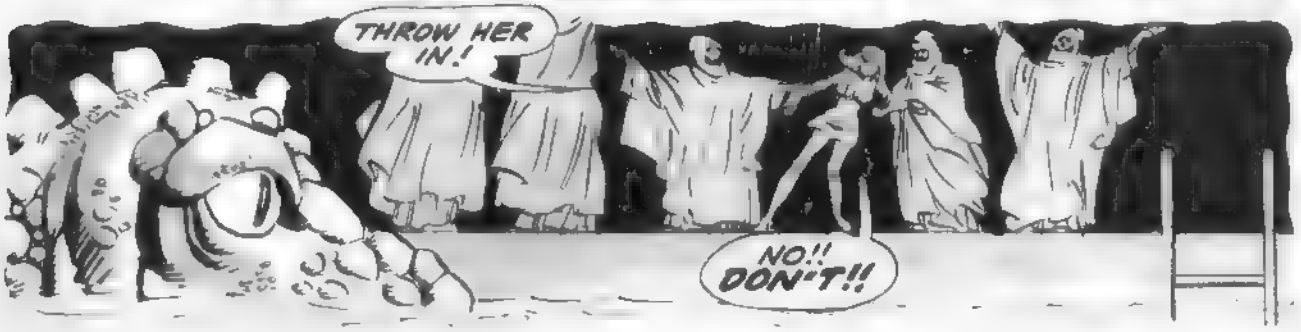
FINALLY, THE AUDIENCE OF FIENDS EMERGE FROM THEIR "ENTERTAIN-MENT" HALL, WITH THE PROMISE OF NEW VICTIMS LIGHTING THEIR RAVAGED FACES!!...
SLEEP WELL, MY FRIENDS... FOR REMEMBER, YOU SHALL PERFORM FOR US TOMORROW NIGHT!!
TAKE US BACK TO THE COTTAGE -- I CAN'T BEAR TO GAZE AT YOUR HIDEOUS BEING!!

WHAT CAN WE DO, JIM? WHAT CAN WE DO??
WE MUST ESCAPE!! THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY OUT -- MARY!! I HAVE IT!! -- THE MISSION!!
THE MISSION WE PASSED IS JUST A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY... AND WITCHES CANNOT LIVE UNDER THE SOUNDS OF CHURCH BELLS! IF I COULD GET TO THOSE BELLS...
WE WOULD BE SAVED!! BUT HOW --

GUARD-- COME QUICKLY!! M-MY WIFE'S GONE OUT OF HER MIND!! SHE'S TRYING TO KILL ME!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER??
WHEN THE GUARD OPENED THE DOOR, JIM GRABBED HIM BY THE THROAT AND KILLED HIM!...
AARGH-H-H!
HURRY, MARY-- WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE!!
NO, JIM-- I--I'M TOO EXHAUSTED!! I'D ONLY GET US BOTH CAUGHT! YOU GO ALONE... QUICKLY!!

WHILE THE CREATURES PERFORM THEIR FRENZIED RITES OF EVIL, JIM SLIPS AWAY INTO THE NIGHT!...
GOT TO HURRY--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!

BUT AS MARY WAITS, THE WITCHES COME IN SEARCH FOR THE MISSING GUARD AND BRING WITH THEM THE CHILL OF VIOLENT DEATH...
THE MAN HAS ESCAPED!! BUT WE STILL HAVE HER-- ONE FRESH MORSEL OF FOOD FOR OUR HUNGRY PET!!
W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?


THROW HER IN!
NO!! DON'T!!

WHAT WAS THAT SOUND ?? IT-- IT COULDN'T BE...
IT'S JIM! HE-- HE'S REACHED THE CHURCH!
CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!

AS THE BELLS RING THE DEMONS OF DARKNESS CROUCH LIKE WOUNDED ANIMALS DOOMED TO DIE IN FLAME!!
AIEEE! THE BELLS!!
CLANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!

THE FLAMES! THE FLAMES! YAAAAH-H-H!!!
LIKE THE BURNING VENGEANCE OF HEAVEN, THE FIRE CONTINUES TO EAT AT THE BODIES OF THE AGONIZED CREATURES...
AAAAGH
JIM! JIM, DARLING!! WHERE ARE YOU??
SOON JIM AND MARY TURNER-- THE GHASTLY EVENTS OF THE DAY SEARED IN THEIR MINDS-- WATCH THE COLONY BEING DEVOURED IN FLAMES...
IT'S HORRIBLE, JIM!! I--I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK!!
THEY DIE AS THEY DESERVE TO DIE, MARY-- IN FIRE!!
THE END

THE VAMPIRE FLIES

THE GREED FOR POWER CAN CREATE, DESTROY AND HORRIFY BUT BALUK KHAN, THE CONQUEROR THOUGHT NOTHING COULD WITHSTAND HIS MIGHT... THE ONLY THING HE FORGOT WAS THAT NO ONE COULD CONQUER...

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MURDERER'S FACE? NOTHING TERRIBLE ABOUT IT, IS THERE? THEY ARE MEN! AND THESE WERE MEN, TOO! BUT LOOK CLOSELY... ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ABOUT THEM? SOMETHING THAT SAYS THEY ARE KILLERS!

OF COURSE THEY WERE! AND WHAT WAR DO YOU THINK WAS THE WORST?

VIETNAM? KOREA? WORLD WAR II? OR WORLD WAR I?

...OR WAS THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES THE MOST TERRIBLE? SURELY, MEN DIED, BLOOD WAS SPILLED, BODIES WERE MAIMED... TERROR WAS BORN...

LET'S GO, BOYS! GET THOSE REBS! GET 'EM!

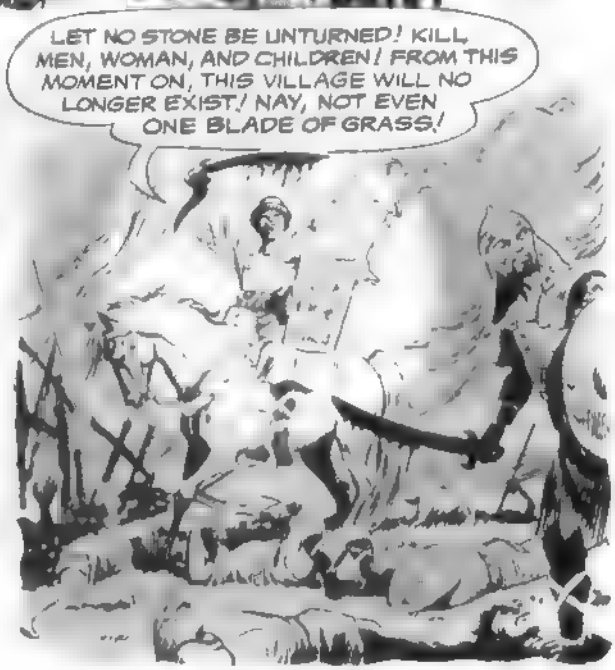
AND TURN BACK THE PAGES OF TIME! TURN BACK TO THAT FROZEN DAY WHEN NAPOLEON FOUGHT AGAINST THE RISING TIDE OF HIS SIBERIAN FOES...

BUT EVEN BEFORE HIM... WHEN MEDIEVAL BARONS FOUGHT TO THE DEATH FOR POWER AND LOOT... EVEN THEN WERE THERE NOT GROANS AND SCREAMS AND SHRIEKS?...

YES... BUT NO WHERE... AT NO TIME... WAS THERE SUCH A MORE HORRIBLE FOE THAN THE **HORDE**! THE **HORDE** WHO RODE AGAINST NATIONS... AND LEFT NOT EVEN A BLADE OF GRASS... THE **HORDE** OF WAR! THE **HORDE** OF DEATH!

T-THEY COME!

AND WHO WAS THEIR LEADER? WHO WAS THIS MIGHTY CONQUEROR ...THIS RUTHLESS MASTERMIND OF THE **HORDE!** A LITTLE-KNOWN NAME, DEAR READER! A NAME THAT WOULD SEND SHIVERS OF FEAR DOWN YOUR BACKS HAD YOU KNOWN HIM PERSONALLY! **BALUK KHAN,** THE DESTROYER! **BALUK KHAN,** THE RIGHT ARM OF **GENGHIS KHAN!**



AND HE MURDERED, AND HE KILLED, AND HE TORTURED! AND THE RIVERS RAN RED WITH BLOOD...
THE TARTARS ARE VANQUISHED! THEIR LANDS, HERDS, POSSESSIONS, EVERYTHING! NOW IT'S MINE! MINE!
AND NOW... FOR THE PROVINCE OF UZRUK!
GOTH
UZRUK
PAMIR
UZRUK... LAND OF THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE! A LAND RULED BY AN OLD MONARCH... A MAN NO MATCH FOR THE SAVAGE BARBARIANS TO COME...
WHY SO SAD FATHER? WHAT HAS RUINED THY HAPPINESS?
I FEAR FOR OUR LIVES, LARLA! YEA... FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND BABE IN OUR FAIR LAND! BALUK APPROACHES OUR DOMAIN!
I HAVE HEARD OF HIS CRUELTY AND HIS HORDE! OUR SOLDIERS WILL BE NO MATCH FOR HIM! COULDN'T WE WIN HIM OVER BY KINDNESS AND BY FRIENDSHIP?
WE MIGHT USE BRIBERY, WHERE MIGHT CANNOT SUCCEED! HMMMMM...
HO, RENZOR... VARIAN... TOPAK! CALL OUR PEOPLE TOGETHER! WE MUST GIVE BALUKA A GIANT FEAST! MAKE PREPARATIONS AT ONCE! HURRY!
YES, OH LORD! WE SHALL DO SO WITH ALL HASTE!

AND SO A GIANT CELEBRATION WAS ARRANGED... IN HONOR OF THEIR "PROTECTOR" AND THEIR "FRIEND" THE MIGHTY BALUK KHAN...
MORE WINE! QUICKLY!
Y-YES GREAT CONQUERER!

BALUK LOVED TO EAT...
...FOOD! WHAT COULD BE BETTER? BRING MORE!

...AND BALUK LOVED WOMEN...
YOU ARE INDEED VERY BEAUTIFUL, MY LITTLE FLOWER!

BUT WHEN BALUK SAW LARLA, HIS HEART WAS LOST...
WHO IS THAT? I MUST KNOW! I MUST HAVE HER!
SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE UZRUK KING! AND THE MAN WITH HER IS HER BETHROTHED!

YOU SAY THAT FOOL WITH HER IS HER SWEETHEART? AH, PERHAPS WE MAY YET FIND A WAY TO... AH... CHANGE HIS MIND! YES, I THINK SO...

AND BALUK MEANT EVERY WORD HE SAID...
BUT WHERE DO YOU GO, BROTHER? ARE YOU NOT SATISFIED WITH THE FEAST IN YOUR HONOR?
WE CANNOT SIT IN THE CAMP OF THOSE WHO HAVE THE SCOURGE UPON THEM BEHOLD!

BUT YOUR COMING DID NOT GIVE US TIME TO...
DO NOT REPLY WITH EXCUSES! WE ARE LEAVING! THE VAMPIRE FLIES OF DEATH SHALL NOT TOUCH US!
GOOD! NOW I HAVE CREATED A BASIS FOR WAR!

A FEW WEEKS LATER, IN THE TENT OF LARLA'S BETROTHED...
ARRGHH!

AND SOON AFTERWARDS... DEATH FOR THE KING'S BODYGUARD BY MYSTERIOUS ASSAILANTS...
THIS IS FOR KHAN!

AND ONE MONTH AFTER THAT... AT THE VERY GATES OF THE UZRUK EMPIRE...
CRASH THROUGH THE PORTALS OF THE ENEMY! MY HORDE! SHOW THEM WHAT IT MEANS TO RESIST US!
ONWARD! OUR MIGHTY MASTER LEADS US!

NONE COULD ESCAPE...
UGH-H... AT LEAST... I SHALL NOT DIE... IN DISGRACE, LARLA! KILL YOURSELF, MY CHILD! TO LIVE WILL BE WORST THAN DEATH...
NO, FATHER! I SHALL LIVE LONG ENOUGH FOR REVENGE! HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE MY WRATH!

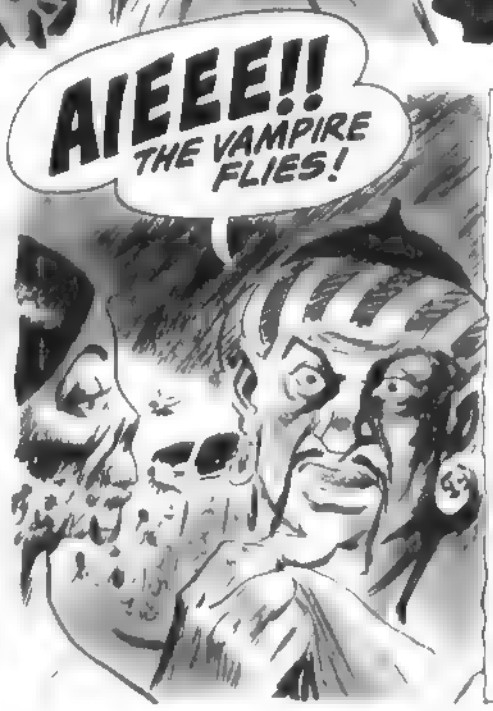
SO THE HORDE SWEPT THROUGH ANOTHER LAND ONCE MORE... RUTHLESSLY, INVINCIBLY... UNTIL THEY FACED A SILENT GIRL ON A SOMBER THRONE...
YOU AWAIT ME IN BRIDAL SPLENDOR, MY DOVE!

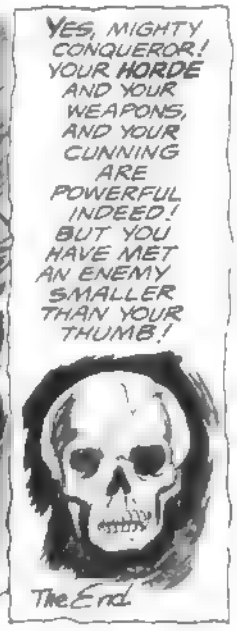
YOU WILL NOT SAY A WORD AGAINST ME, EH! I AM PLEASED! HERE IS MY KISS TO YOU, LARLA! MY LOVE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF!
HAIL TO OUR KHAN!

BEHOLD MY NEW BRIDE! MY VALIANT SOLDIERS! RAISE YOUR CRIES OF VICTORY TO HER!
BUT SHE APPEARS SILENT, MIGHTY ONE! IT IS A BAD OMEN! MAKE HER SPEAK!

BAH! I SHALL DO BETTER THAN THAT! I SHALL KISS HER AGAIN SO THAT SHE MAY KNOW THE POWER OF MY LOVE! SPEAK NOW, OH BELOVED! THY MASTER COMMANDS THEE!

WHAT? YOU DARE DISOBEY? SPEAK I SAID... OR I SHALL CUT OUT THY TONGUE WITH MY OWN DAGGER!


AIEEE!! THE VAMPIRE FLIES!


YES, MIGHTY CONQUEROR! YOUR HORDE AND YOUR WEAPONS, AND YOUR CUNNING ARE POWERFUL INDEED! BUT YOU HAVE MET AN ENEMY SMALLER THAN YOUR THUMB!
The End

GIVE ME BACK MY BRAIN

SOON..
SO THE OLD MAN IS DYING AT LAST, IS HE? HE MUST BE NINETY! WORTH MILLIONS, AND WITH ONE OF THE KEENEST BRAINS I'VE EVER SEEN!
HOW IS HE NOW, TABU?
YOU MUST HURRY, DOCTOR! HIS ORDERS ARE THAT YOU GO TO HIM AT ONCE!
INSTANTLY THE DOCTOR SENSES SOMETHING UNCANNY ABOUT THE DEATH ROOM...
HURRY, FISHER! I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME! YOU MUST LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT I TELL YOU... AND YOU MUST PROMISE TO OBEY ME!
OF COURSE, SIR! ANYTHING I CAN DO!
THEY GET ODD IDEAS WHEN THEY'RE DYING!
THERE IS NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS! NOW WHEN I DIE, YOU MUST TAKE OUT MY BRAIN AT ONCE! PUT IT IN A CASKET THAT TABU WILL GIVE YOU! MY BRAIN IS NOT REALLY MINE AT ALL! I BORROWED IT, AND YOU MUST RETURN IT! DO YOU PROMISE TO DO THIS? DO YOU?
MINUTES LATER...
HE'S GONE, TABU! MIGHT AS WELL CLOSE HIS EYES! THEN YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
HE WAS A GREAT AND GOOD MAN! I, TABU, WILL MAKE SURE HIS LAST WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT!
THE DOCTOR, STAGGERED BY THE WEIRD REQUEST, MAKES A PROMISE
TABU WILL EXPLAIN ALL AFTER I'M DEAD! BUT YOU MUST NOT BREAK YOUR WORD!
I-I PROMISE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, SIR, BUT I'LL DO IT! I'LL TAKE OUT YOUR BRAIN!

A CRUDE OPERATING TABLE IS RIGGED...
NO TIME TO WASTE! WHILE I'M SAWING THE SKULL OPEN, YOU CAN BE EXPLAINING!
THE STORY BEGINS IN EGYPT, FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO! THERE WAS A HIGH PRIEST CALLED VISHNU!
SEEMS I'VE HEARD THAT NAME! DIDN'T THEY MAKE A GOD OF HIM AFTER HE DIED?
CORRECT, BUT THEY DID MORE... BEFORE HE WAS ENTOMBED, THEY REMOVED HIS BRAIN AND PRESERVED IT! FOR SOME STRANGE REASON THE BRAIN DID NOT DIE!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE, TABU, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME...
VISHNU WAS VERY ANGRY, BUT HE PERMITTED MR. MAXMILIAN TO KEEP HIS BRAIN PROVIDED IT WAS USED FOR GOOD PURPOSES... AND ONLY IF IT WAS RETURNED AFTER MR. MAXMILIANS DEATH!
BUT I AM, SIR! THIS IS THE BRAIN OF VISHNU! MR. MAXMILIAN DISCOVERED IT IN A TOMB SOME SIXTY YEARS AGO! IT WAS STILL ALIVE! HE DARED TO TAKE IT AND HAVE IT PUT INTO HIS OWN SKULL! LATER HE HAD A DREAM IN WHICH VISHNU CAME TO HIM!
INCREDIBLE!
OF ALL THE CRAZY YARNS... BUT SOMEHOW I BELIEVE IT! AND IF IT IS TRUE, WHAT A CHANCE FOR ME! A BRAIN... ALIVE AFTER FIVE THOUSAND YEARS... I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET TO MY LAB AND LOOK AT IT!
LATER
...NOW IT MUST GO BACK TO ITS TOMB IN EGYPT! YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN, SIR, BECAUSE ONLY A DOCTOR COULD REMOVE THE BRAIN WITHOUT HARMING IT!

FASCINATED BY THE BRAIN, THE DOCTOR WORKS UNTIL DAWN..
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, THE BRAIN IS EXTREMELY OLD! THE TISSUE SHOWS THAT CLEARLY! THE DEGREE OF CONVOLUTION SHOWS THAT IT IS HIGHLY DEVELOPED AND COMPLICATED!
NO WONDER MAXMILIAN WAS SO SUCCESSFUL! WHO WOULDN'T BE WITH A BRAIN LIKE THIS! MARVELOUS, TOO, HOW IT CONTINUES TO LIVE! PITY TO PUT IT IN SOME DECAYING TOMB!
LATER
YOU CANNOT RETURN THE BRAIN?
NO! I'M MUCH TOO BUSY! IF YOU WANT TO RETURN THE BRAIN, HERE IT IS!
NEXT DAY THE DOCTOR VISITS HIS OLD MEDICAL SCHOOL
HELLO, DEAN BAXTER! I WONDER IF YOU COULD DO ME A FAVOR? I NEED A BRAIN.. JUST ANY OLD BRAIN WILL DO!
I THINK WE CAN MANAGE THAT FOR OUR MOST BRILLIANT GRADUATE!
BUT THAT NIGHT THE DOCTOR CHUCKLES AT HIS OWN CLEVERNESS!
VERY NEAT! TABU NEVER GUESSED THAT I SWITCHED THE BRAINS! NOW I CAN STUDY VISHNU'S BRAIN TO MY HEARTS CONTENT!
YOU HAVE BROKEN FAITH, BUT TABU WILL NOT! I WILL RETURN THE BRAIN IN YOUR STEAD! GOOD BYE, DR FISHER!
GOODBYE, TABU! GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TRIP!

DAYS LATER, THE DOCTOR HAS A MORE DARING PLAN..
YOU WERE ONCE A BRILLIANT BRAIN SURGEON, TORKS! IS ANY OF THAT SKILL LEFT?
I'M AS GOOD AS I EVER WAS, DR. FISHER! ALL I NEED IS A BREAK!
LATER...
WE'RE GOING TO A SPECIAL LAB I'VE FITTED UP, TORKS! I WANT YOU TO PERFORM A VERY DELICATE OPERATION IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY!
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY!
I WANT YOU TO REMOVE MY BRAIN AND REPLACE IT WITH THIS ONE! DO IT AND DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! I'LL PAY YOU HANDSOMELY!
B-BUT YOU MIGHT DIE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
BUT TORKS, OUTLAWED FROM MEDICINE, AT LAST AGREES TO PERFORM THE OPERATION...
SO DR. FISHER FALLS AWAY INTO DARKNESS, STAKING HIS LIFE ON THE OLD MAN'S RUSTY SKILLS..
LET'S SEE... FIRST THE TRANSVERSE SLASH, THEN THE...
REMEMBER EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU! AND ABOVE ALL, NO ONE MUST KNOW OF THIS!
TWO WEEKS LATER..
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO TAKE THEM OFF, FISHER! I REALLY DID A REMARKABLE JOB! BUT I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THAT BRAIN!
LATER, TORKS, LATER!
FIRST WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE DRINK TO CELEBRATE! BUT I HOPE YOU DIDN'T TELL ANYONE OF OUR EXPERIMENT WHILE I WAS CONVALESCING!
NOT A WORD!

MEANTIME TABU MAKES THE LONG JOURNEY TO EGYPT...
AT LAST I CAN RETURN THE BRAIN TO VISHNU!
THEN BOTH OF US CAN REST IN PEACE!
THIS MUST BE THE TOMB OF VISHNU! ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUCTIONS I MUST PLACE THE CASKET WITH THE BRAIN ON THE STONE COFFIN, THEN SAY A PRAYER...
...OF THANKS FOR THE USE OF THE BRAIN!
I, TABU, SERVANT OF MAXMILIAN, PAY HOMAGE TO VISHNU, THE MOST VENERABLE AND WISE!
SUDDENLY...
L-LIGHTNING! THE TOMB IS S-SHATTERED! VISHNU MUST BE ANGRY WITH ME!

A SPECTRAL FIGURE LOOMS FROM THE COFFIN.
FOOL! CURSED MORTAL! HOW DARE YOU OFFER ME THE BRAIN OF ANOTHER?
LIAR! IT IS THE BRAIN OF A MADMAN, A CRIMINAL, TAKEN FROM A NAMELESS BODY! DIE NOW!
ANOTHER? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! IT IS YOUR BRAIN, VISHNU! I RETURN IT AS MY MASTER BADE ME!
MEANWHILE, THE DOCTOR PROSPERS..
EVERYTHING IS GOING MY WAY! FAME AND FORTUNE IS MINE!
THAT NIGHT HE MAKES A BRILLIANT SPEECH BEFORE A LEARNED SOCIETY...
NOW IN CLOSING LET ME QUOTE FROM THE GREEK EPICTETUS...
MARVELOUS! ONE WOULD ALMOST THINK HE WAS THERE!
LATER...
I WAS EXCEPTIONAL TONIGHT!...AND WHY NOT? IN MY SKULL IS A BRAIN FIVE THOUSAND YEARS OLD!

AS HE REACHES HOME...
GOOD EVENING, SIR! THERE IS A GENTLEMAN WAITING IN THE STUDY! A PATIENT, I BELIEVE!
YOU KNOW I NO LONGER SEE PATIENTS!
I'VE GIVEN UP ORDINARY PRACTICE, HOWEVER ..
BUT THIS PATIENT IS DIFFERENT...
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME? A HEAD WOUND OF SOME KIND?
YES, DOCTOR, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT!
AS THE LAST BANDAGE FALLS AWAY...
NOW, DOCTOR, I WANT MY BRAIN!
EEEEEEEE

YOU FOOLED TABU, DOCTOR, BUT NOT VISHNU! I HAVE COME ALL THE WAY FROM EGYPT TO GET MY BRAIN!
N-NO! Y-YOU CAN'T! I HAVE THE BRAIN IN MY SKULL!
SOMETHING GLITTERS CRUELLY IN THE BONY HANDS OF VISHNU...
NO- NOT THAT! YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO ME!
AHEEEEEEE-
YOU ARE WRONG AGAIN, DOCTOR! VISHNU CAN DO IT! NOW GIVE IT TO ME!
AT LAST! AND IT SEEMS TO BE UNHARMED WHICH (CHUCKLE) IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU, DOCTOR!
LATER A STARK AND TERRIBLE FIGURE IS SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY...
NOW VISHNU CAN RETURN TO HIS TOMB IN PEACE!
BEHIND, IN A SILENT HOUSE, IS ALL THAT IS LEFT OF DR. MORRIS FISHER. LIKE MANY BEFORE HIM, HE LEARNED KNOWLEDGE MUST BE EARNED! IT CANNOT BE STOLEN...
THE END

CATS OF DOOM

WHY CAN'T WE GET OFF THE TRAIN HERE?
THE EVIL LYNX MAN COULD MAKE YOU HIS VICTIM! TONIGHT'S HIS LAST CHANCE TO CAPTURE A SACRIFICE FOR THE CAT GODS! I MUST GO, SEÑORITA, TO WARN THE OTHER PASSENGERS!
WHAT KIND OF SUPERSTITIOUS HUMBUG WAS HE PRATTLING ABOUT? THE TRAIN'S STOPPED! I'VE GOT TO TAKE A PEEK AND... OOOH! A CAT!
WHY THAT NERVY ANIMAL GRABBED MY PURSE! COME BACK HERE WITH THAT!
THIS PLACE IS SO EMPTY AND LONELY! ¿OH!?
WHERE DID THAT CAT GO? I MUST GET THAT PURSE! IT HAS ALL MY MONEY AND MY VISA!
ALLOW ME, SEÑORITA! I WITNESSED THE THIEVERY AND SNATCHED THE PRIZE FROM THE CULPRIT AS HE RAN PAST!
AS RUTH EXPRESSED HER THANKS, SHE DID NOT NOTICE THAT THE TRAIN HAD BEGUN TO LEAVE, UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE!
OH, I'VE MISSED IT! NOW I'M STRANDED HERE!
PERHAPS TRAPPED WOULD BE A BETTER WORD, SEÑORITA!

AND SO, AFTER A COMFORTABLE NIGHT AT MY ER... INN, YOU CAN CATCH THE MORNING TRAIN!
I SEEM TO HAVE NO CHOICE! WHY IS NO ONE ABOUT, AND THOSE HOUSES ALL BOARDED UP? IS IT THAT LYNX MAN STORY?
EEK! THAT HORRIBLE SHADOW SHOWS A MAN HANGING FROM THE GALLOWS!
I- UH- SEE NO-THING! IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION! LET US HURRY!
WHAT IS THAT SUPERSTITIOUS LEGEND ALL ABOUT?
THERE WAS A MAN NAMED VELOZ, WHOSE PET MOUNTAIN LYNX GREW VICIOUS AND KILLED A CHILD! ANGRY VILLAGERS SENTENCED IT TO BE KILLED, BUT VELOZ SET IT FREE AND THE MOB TURNED ON VELOZ!
I- I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! THE GALLOWS IS EMPTY! YET I'D SWEAR THAT SHADOW SHOWED A CORPSE!
STRANGE! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL YOU THAT THEY HANGED THIS MAN VELOZ!
RUTH WALKED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGE WITH THE MAN WHO HAD BEFRIENDED HER AS HE RELATED THE TERRIFYING LYNX-MAN LEGEND...
VELOZ'S CORPSE HAS DISAPPEARED SINCE THE HANGING LAST NIGHT!
A BAD SIGN! IT MEANS HE'S BEEN ADOPTED BY THE CAT GODS AND HAS BEEN GIVEN NINE LIVES, HEAVEN HAVE MERCY ON OUR VILLAGE NOW!

ONE YEAR LATER A VILLAGER WAS MISSED. THEY LATER LEARNED HIS FATE FROM A HORROR STRICKEN SHEPHERD WHO HAD WITNESSED IT!
AIEEE! A MAN BEING SACRIFICED TO THE CAT GODS!
HOW HORRIBLE! CERTAINLY THERE CAN BE NO BASIS IN FACT FOR SUCH A MACABRE TALE?
WHO KNOWS! ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, ONCE A YEAR, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS HANGING THE LYNX-MAN MUST CAPTURE ANOTHER SACRIFICIAL VICTIM OR LOSE ONE OF HIS NINE LIVES!
I LEFT MY CART HERE JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN!
A CART DRAWN BY... WHY, THEY'RE MOUNTAIN LYNX! ARE... ARE THEY SAFE?
THAT'S WHAT THE TRAIN CONDUCTOR MEANT! IF HE FAILS TO GET A VICTIM TONIGHT, HE LOSES THE LAST OF HIS NINE LIVES!
AS SAFE AS I AM, SENORITA! BUT LISTEN TO THE REST OF THE LEGEND! FOR EIGHT YEARS NOW THE LYNX-MAN HAS HAD NO VICTIMS! AFTER THAT FIRST YEAR THE VILLAGERS LOCKED THEMSELVES IN!
YES! YOU SEE HOW DESPERATE HE'D BE TONIGHT! WHY DO YOU LOOK AT ME SO STRANGELY, SENORITA? DO NOT FEAR! OUR DESTINATION IS AROUND THE NEXT TURN!

A FEW MINUTES LATER IN A WILD MOUNTAIN CANYON.
IS. IS THIS THE INN. THESE RUINS? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND, SENOR!
THE NAME IS VELOZ, GOLDEN-HAIRED ONE! AND THIS IS MY HOME! COME, LET ME SHOW YOU THE TEMPLE OF THE CAT GODS!
VELOZ? YOU ARE VELOZ, THE LYNX-MAN!
YES! IT WAS I IN CAT FORM WHO LURED YOU FROM THE TRAIN BY STEALING YOUR PURSE!
I'LL TRY TO FIGHT MY WAY THROUGH! MAYBE THE NAILFILE IN MY PURSE WILL HELP!
THE NAILFILE SUNK RIGHT INTO ITS THROAT! BUT IT WASN'T HURT-- IT DIDN'T EVEN BLEED!
THEN THE LEGEND IS TRUE, AND I AM TO BECOME YOUR VICTIM!
MY PEOPLE WILL NOT LET YOU ESCAPE! THE CAT GODS MUST BE APPEASED TONIGHT!
GET AWAY FROM ME! I--I'LL KILL YOU ANYHOW!
I'M AFRAID NOT-- AT LEAST NOT BY ORDINARY MEANS! COME! I MUST TAKE YOU TO THE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR!
RUTH WAS THEN BOUND HELPLESSLY!
WHY MUST ONE SO BEAUTIFUL BE SACRIFICED? BUT THE CAT GODS MUST BE APPEASED TONIGHT, OR THE CAT PEOPLE ARE DOOMED!

THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE MUST BE BRIGHT AND HOT TONIGHT, CELEBRATING OUR FIRST VICTIM IN EIGHT YEARS!
OOOOH! PLEASE SPARE ME!
SOMEHOW, I HAVE NO ZEST FOR THESE RITES TONIGHT! SHE IS SO YOUNG, SO LOVELY! IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMEONE ELSE BEING SACRIFICED!.. PERHAPS THERE CAN BE!
MOST OF YOU HAVE MATES! I, THE LYNX-MAN WILL HAVE THIS ONE, AND GET ANOTHER TO BE SACRIFICED IN HER PLACE!
STOP THE CEREMONY AND LISTEN, MY PEOPLE! I HAVE DECIDED ON A CHANGE!
I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE VILLAGE! YOU'LL LURE A NEW VICTIM! THEY'RE FAMILIAR WITH MY CAT-FORMS, BUT YOU WON'T BE SUSPECTED! UPON MARRIAGE TO ME, YOU'LL BECOME ONE OF US!
YOU HEARD! I'VE BEEN LONESOME ALL THESE YEARS AND TONIGHT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU! THERE IS STILL A COUPLE OF HOURS UNTIL MIDNIGHT! AGREE TO MY PLAN AND YOU'LL BE SPARED!
GOOD!
I-I DON'T KNOW! THE HEAT--- BEGINNING TO SEAR ME! I--OOOHH! YES, YES! I'LL AGREE TO ANYTHING IF YOU'LL ONLY FREE ME!
WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

HURRY! THE CATS SEEM AGAINST YOUR PLAN!
BACK, YOU FOOLISH CREATURES! HOW DARE YOU QUESTION MY DECISION? I'M HALF MAN AND WISER THAN YOU! I'VE SWORN WE'LL GET ANOTHER VICTIM! BACK!
GRRRR

I'M FREE! NOW IF ONLY I CAN GET OUT OF THIS HORRIBLE UNHOLY PLACE WHILE THEY'RE FIGHTING!
GRRRRRRRGG
WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO HIM NOW
STOP! HAVE YOU ALL GONE MAD? WAIT! DON'T ATTACK! WE'LL SACRIFICE THE GIRL! ARGHH!

LOOKING BACK FOR ONE LAST SPINE CHILLING MOMENT, RUTH SAW THAT VELOZ, THE LYNX MAN HAD BEEN SACRIFICED IN HER PLACE!

THERE'S VELOZ'S CART! BUT THE LYNX THAT ONCE DREW IT ARE NOW NOTHING BUT BONES!
A FEW HOURS LATER AS DAWN BROKE...
THIS IS THE MORNING OF GREAT REJOICING, SENORITA! COME TO THE SQUARE AND SEE WHY!
I'M LOST! I'LL NEVER FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE VILLAGE! OOOH! CAT SHADOWS ACROSS THE MOON!
THE END OF THE LYNX-MAN VELOZ! BACK WHERE HE BELONGS, WHERE HIS NATURAL LIFE ENDED NINE YEARS AGO!
IT IS HE, ALL RIGHT! BUT HOW... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
BACK IN THE VILLAGE AT LAST! BUT WHAT IS GOING ON?
LATER ON THE MORNING TRAIN...
THERE ARE MANY THINGS NONE OF US UNDERSTAND, HERE IN THE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY, SENORITA! IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO LEAVE THIS PLACE AND NEVER RETURN!
IT'S ALL SO STRANGE! WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD THEM OF THIS WEIRD ADVENTURE? THANK GOODNESS I'M LEAVING THIS GHASTLY TOWN AT LAST!
THE END